Faulty Fertilizer Policy

6583. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fertilizer policy drawn flak" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the faulty fertilizer policy has put soil imbalances and whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present fertilizer policy is the outcome of recommendations submitted in August, 1992 by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertiliser Pricing. The recommendations accepted by the Government led to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertiliser resulting in their price increase initially affecting their consumption, widening the NPK ratio. For narrowing down the NPK ratio, subsequent measures taken by Government include making available phosphatic and potassis fertilisers at concessional rates to farmers and promoting use of chemical fertilisers in conjunction with manures, compost, green manuring and bio-fertilisers.

Some representations on Fertiliser policy have been received, however presently, there is no proposal so far to effect changes.

Chemical Weapons Convention

6584. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the original signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention (C.W.C) which is expected to come into force sometime in mid-1995;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of CWC indicating location of the Headquarters;

(c) whether any nodal agency is being set up in India with a view to discharge the obligations of the Convention; if so, where;

(d) whether OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) propose to undertake the trial inspection of the units, monitor activities of dual purpose chemical industry in India including making arrangement for training of suitable personnel in regard to implementation of CWC; and

(e) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have made any budgetary allocation/grants for meeting expenses relating to the CWC together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) India is one of the original 130 signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (Chemical Wapons Convention). Presently, there are 159 signatories, out of which 27 have ratified it. The Convention will come into force two years after the date of its opening for signatures or 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification whichever is later.

The Convention aims at excluding completely the possibility of the use of Chemical Weapons through the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. Its Headquarter is located at the Hague, th Netherlands. In order to fulfil the obligations under the Convention, each State Party has to designate or establish a National Authority to serve as a national focal point for effective liaison

with the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other State Parties. Action will be taken to designate or establish a National Authority in India in due course.

The Convention also prescribes a detailed regime of declarations comprising initial declarations, annual declarations of past activities, anticipated activities and additionally planned activities in respect of plants, plant sites, scheduled chemicals and unscheduled discrete organic chemicals including their transfer. These declarations would be verified by a team of International inspectors constituted by the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Provisional Technical Secretariat of the OPCW at the Hague is undertaking various activities including training of personnel from various countries to facilitate the effective implementation of various obligations under the convention.

A budgetary provision has been made in the budget of the Department to safeguard the interests of the Indian Chemical Industry including its sensitization, training of personnel and their activities pertaining to the effective implementation of the Convention.

Reduction in the Price of Refampicin

6585. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to reduce the price of Refampicin but is yet to be given effect to;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision to reduce the price of Refamoicin is not acceptable to some major pharmaceuticals of the country;

(c) if so, on what basis these pharmaceuticals are objecting to reduction in its price and other constraints if any in implementing this decision; and

(d) the manner in which Government is likely to overcome these objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Current Ceilng Prices of Grisofluvin

6586. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2491 given in Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1994 and state:

(a) the current ceiling prices of Grieofluvin tablets packwise when were they fixed and what is the price of Griseofluvin on which they are based; and

(b) the current notified price of Griseofluvin, the quantity imported and landed cost of import during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The ceiling price for Griseofluvin tablet 125mg for 10's pack was fixed at Rs. 5.58 on 6.1.1995. This price is based on the DGHS weighted average import price of the bulk drug during the period April-June, 1994.

(b) The notified price of Griseoflurin is Rs. 3691|-kg. As reported by DGHS. during 1993.94 a quantity of 32060|kg was imported into the country, through different ports at landed cost of Rs. 1338.28|kg.

Recovering of the overcharged amount

6587. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paragraph 15 of Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1987 enjoined upon Government to recover the amount owercharged;